

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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UNCLAS BEIRUT 6648

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- U.S. MIDEAST POLICY

REF: USIA 11406

1. SUMMARY. ONLY HALF OF BEIRUT PAPERS APPEARED THIS MORNING, AND THOSE THAT DID SO DEVOTED THEMSELVES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO FORMATION OF LEBANON'S FIRST MILITARY GOVERNMENT. TWO PAPERS COMMENTED ON U.S. MIDEAST POLICY. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" EMPHASIZES THAT IF PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER DO NOT REJECT SENATORS'S VIEWS AMERICAN ROLE IN PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WILL DISAPPEAR. PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B", LINKING EVENTS IN LEBANON WITH MIDEAST CRISIS, SEES ISRAELI-AMERICAN PLOT TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIANS BEHIND CONTINUING LEBANESE CIVIL STRIFE. END SUMMARY.

2. MICHAEL ABU JAWDEH, CHIEF EDITOR OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "OPTIONS BEFORE PRESIDENT FORD AND DR. KISSINGER ARE CLEAR. THEY CAN ACCEPT SENATORS'S BELIEVE IN NEED TO STRENGTHEN ISRAEL, WHICH WOULD

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MEAN ABANDONING AMERICA'S ROLE AS MEDIATOR. THEY CAN STAND

UP TO SENATORS AND CONTINUE REASSESSMENT OF AMERICAN POLICY
IN DIRECTION OF MORE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. WORSE THAN THESE
OF COORSE IS INEVITABLE THIRD OPTION -- HESITATION, I.E.,
PARALYSIS.... IF REPLY OF PRESIDENT AND HIS SECSTATE TO
SENATORS'S MESSAGE IS NOT ONE OF COMPLETE REJECTION, IT WILL
BE BEGINNING OF THEIR CAPITULATION AND END OF AMERICAN ROLE."

3. MUHAMMAD AMIN DUGHAN, PUBLISHER AND CHIEF EDITOR OF PRO-
SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL:
"LEBANON, IN WHICH AMERICANS ARE FISHING AROUND FOR ISRAEL'S
BENEFIT, WILL NEVER FALL INTO FIRE OF BATTLE THEY ARE PLANNING
FOR IT, BECAUSE LEBANON IS LIKE FISH SWIMMING IN ARAB OCEAN....
WE ARE CONVINCED THAT U.S., WHICH IS TRYING TO CRUSH
PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON, WILL PAY THE PRICE IN GULF,
NORTH AFRICA, AND LEVANT.... ITS GAME HAS BEEN COMPLETELY
REVEALED. THERE IS WELL PLANNED ZIONIST-
AMERICAN PLOT, WHICH IS UNFORTUNATELY BEING CARRIED
OUT BE LEBANESE HANDS.... WE WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO
WASHINGTON VIA ITS PLOTTING AMBASSADOR, GODLEY, THAT
NATION OF LEBANON IS STRONGER THAN AMERICAN STATE, WHICH
IS COLLAPSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND IN HEART OF AMERICA
ITSELF.... WE HOPE AMERICANS WILL SEE THAT ARAB LANDS
ARE BOILING LIKE CAULDRON AND THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE
PALESTINE BY DESTROYING PALESTINIANS IS LIKE TRYING TO
DRINK THE WATERS OF THE SEA TO ELIMINATE THE FISH*"
GODLEY

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